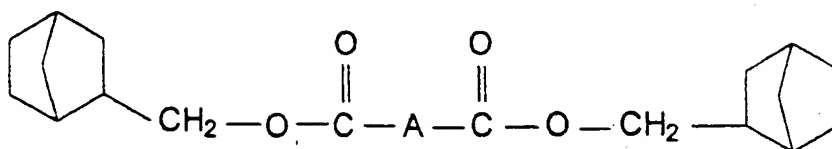


**In the Claims:**

**Claim 1 (amended)**

A carboxylic ester of the formula



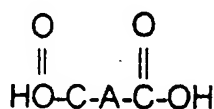
where A is  $\text{-(CH}_2\text{)}_x\text{-}$ , where x ~~= from 1 to 10~~ is selected from the group consisting of 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10.

**Claim 2 (cancelled).**

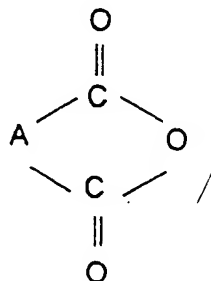
**Claim 3 (previously presented)**

A process for preparing the carboxylic esters as

claimed in claim 1 via reaction of 2-hydroxymethylnorbornane with dicarboxylic acids of the formula



or with their anhydrides of the formula



where A is as defined in claim 1, in the presence of an entrainer for removal, in the form of an azeotropic mixture, of the water formed during the course of the reaction, and, where appropriate, in the presence of a catalyst, removal of excess and unconverted starting materials, treatment with an alkaline reagent for removal of acidic constituents, and then, where appropriate, steam distillation, followed by drying and/or fractional distillation.

**Claim 4** (cancelled)

**Claim 5** (previously presented)      In lubricants or plasticizers provided with thermoplastics, the improvement comprising using the lubricant or plasticizer a compound of claim 1.

**Claim 6** (cancelled)